



## f a c t s h e e t

# Pay-As-You-Throw/Save-Money-And-Reduce-Trash PAYT/SMART Fast Facts

*In a PAYT/SMART solid waste program, residents pay a per-unit fee for disposal of the solid waste that they generate. MassDEP has found that PAYT/SMART is the most effective mechanism for encouraging real waste reduction at the municipal level.*

### **Did you know?**

Municipalities can receive technical assistance to evaluate and implement PAYT/SMART programs, and apply for grant funding for program start-up costs. Learn more at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/grants/smrp-grants.html>

- There are now 145 municipalities out of 352 in Massachusetts that have adopted this approach, about 40%. Looking at this from a household viewpoint, PAYT/SMART covers 20% of the total households in the state.<sup>1</sup> In each of these municipalities, solid waste tonnage was reduced by 25-50% through a combination of increased recycling, diversion to reuse, repair, donation, composting, and other methods of disposal.
- In CY2015 the average solid waste generated per household in PAYT/SMART municipalities was 1,092 lbs, only 64% of the 1,710 lbs per household average generated in municipalities without PAYT/SMART programs.<sup>2</sup>
- According to the US Census there are 2,500,000 households in MA. If the remaining 80% of the households in the state had a PAYT/SMART as incentive to reduce their waste, reducing their trash generation to the average seen in existing SMART/PAYT municipalities, it would reduce the statewide trash by over 478,000 tons per year!<sup>3</sup>
- The projected 618,000 tons per year of solid waste that could be avoided if the all MA municipalities implemented PAYT/SMART programs represents over \$42 million in potential savings by municipalities, assuming an average disposal cost of \$68 per ton.

Massachusetts Department of  
Environmental Protection  
One Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108-4746

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
Charles D. Baker, Governor

Executive Office of  
Energy & Environmental Affairs  
Matthew Beaton, Secretary

Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Martin Suuberg, Commissioner

Produced by the  
Bureau of Air and Waste,  
November 2016.

This information is available  
in alternate format by calling  
our ADA Coordinator at  
617-574-6872.



## **Additional Information**

Visit the MassDEP web site:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/reduce/pay-as-you-throw-payt.html>

<sup>1</sup> PAYT/SMART households served number was extracted from MassDEP PAYT database. Where there was no data on the number of households served, the statewide average (70%) of total households in a PAYT/SMART municipality was used. U.S. Census figure of 2500000 was used for the total number of households in the Commonwealth.

<sup>2</sup> The average pounds per year per household disposed of by PAYT/SMART municipalities is 1155 according to CY15 data submitted to MassDEP on the annual Waste and Recycling Survey required by the MassDEP grant program.

<sup>3</sup> Calculation  $618,000 = .80 * 2500000 * (1710 - 1092) / 2000$